

## FOR SUNDAY READING.

## "NEARER TO THEE."

They were singing, sweetly singing,  
And the song melodiously  
On the evening air was ringing:  
"Nearer, O, my God, to Thee!"  
In my eyes the tear-drops glistened  
As it stirred the twilight dim,  
And I wondered as I listened  
If it brought them nearer Him.

Were they like the wanderer, weary,  
Song and life in sweet accord,  
Resting in the darkness dreary  
In that nearness to the Lord?  
Had His spirit ever sought them,  
To be slighted or denied?  
Had that dear song ever brought them  
Closer to the Saviour's side?

I have heard its music often,  
Felt its meaning deep and sweet,  
And my weary heart would soften  
Singing at my Master's feet.  
"Nearer Thee"—O, precious feeling!—  
Nearer Thee in gain and loss;  
Nearer Thee when I am kneeling  
In the shadow of Thy cross!

Nearer Thee when love, descending,  
Falls in blessings on my head;  
Nearer Thee when I am bending  
O'er the graves that hide my dead!  
Nearer Thee in joy, in sorrow,  
'Tis the same where'er I roam;  
Nearer Thee to-day, to-morrow,  
O, my King, my Christ, my Home!  
—Frank L. Stanton, in "Songs of a Day."

## PRIDE OF THE WORLD.

## Christ's Living Rebuke to a Great and Productive Sin.

The word pride does not often occur in the New Testament, but it is in very bad company where it does occur. The Saviour says: "Out of the heart of men proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, *pride*, foolishness." Paul, using the adjective, says: "Men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, *proud*, blasphemous, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof." And John puts together "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life."

No affection or sin could be in worse company. It is in a nest of vipers. It is itself a whole brood of vipers. For the deceptions, frauds, shams, jealousies, envyings, strifes, resentments, bitterness and hatreds of life generally belong to it. It is as many-headed as the Lernean serpent that Hercules was set to kill, and it is just as hard to kill. Men are proud when they are puffed up by success, and they are proud when they are put down by disappointment. The man at the top of the ladder looks down at the man at the foot of the ladder with pride and contempt, and the man at the bottom looks up at the man at the top with pride and hate. This is the principal difference between the upper classes and the lower classes. When they change places their pride remains and hate is turned to contempt. The woman who rides in a splendid equipage may be vain. The woman who looks at her from the sidewalk may be envious; both are proud. The one is pride on wheels, the other pride on foot. No doubt some people go to church to display their fine clothes, but many more stay at home because they do not have fine clothes.

Pride makes most of our wants. It does not take much to keep out the cold, but it does take much to keep up with the fashions. We could probably keep just as warm in mud or sod

houses as in palatial stone fronts; and the little old-fashioned windows would let in as much light as now gets in through three thicknesses of shades and lace curtains, but then it would not be so gratifying to pride. It does not take much to feed our bodies, but it does take much to feed our pride. It has a great mouth, hungry eyes and an appetite which grows on what it feeds upon. The wife of a man who was many times a millionaire went abroad and in two of the world's great capitals lived in splendor which eclipsed royalty. But it was not enough. She must have a title for her daughter, and so a man with a great title, a small soul and bad record was found and the girl and the money went for the bauble. And now the daughter has fled to her native country to escape her marital misery. This is an extreme case, but human pride runs that way. It is never satisfied as long as there is anything above or beyond it. Give it the power and it would dethrone God Himself.

It also makes much of our trouble and sorrow. It is not often that the body gets a blow which hurts, but our pride gets hit and hurt everyday. People are more miserable because they have not realized their proud ambitions and kept up with somebody else than because they are hungry or sick.

But what is worse, pride spoils our goodness. We do not like the humble way of doing good. We like state occasions, to be on important committees, and better still to be at the head of them, and "to come to the front when anything unusual is going on." A great sweeping movement with plenty of prominence and eclat is what suits us best. "Slum work!" from house to house! Deliver us! If we get crossed and our plans are not carried out, then there is trouble. Most of the church difficulties and grievances are due to the fact that all can not have their own way. Offended members, members with sores and grievances, if hunted right down to an honest acknowledgment of their real trouble would have to admit, in a majority of cases, that wounded pride is at the bottom of it all.

And these things are so, because Christians do not consider how sinful pride is. "God resisteth the proud," it is said. There is no sin against which God has set Himself with more severity. Publicans and sinners could readily find access to the Saviour. But the pride of the Pharisee stirred the wrath even of the Lamb.

It is the less excusable also because the Saviour has done so much through example, teaching and endowment to overcome it in us. His incarnation was the incarnation of humility rather than of power. All the universe can tell us of Divine power, but Christ alone tells us of the Divine humility. Born in a manger, crucified between two thieves! What a beginning and ending of that earthly career! But how it teaches us that we ought to be humble. And more, it teaches us how beautiful and mighty humility is. "Thy gentleness hath made me great." —Chicago Advance.

When the multitude followed Christ it was generally out of curiosity, or because they wanted something to eat.

The devil loves the man whose mule has an easier time than his wife, no matter whether he belongs to church or not.

The devil always feels free to walk into the house of the man who does not put up a fence that tells him to keep

## RELIGIOUS MATTERS.

## A BLESSED THOUGHT.

God knows best, O blessed thought,  
Thought full of strength and peace,  
That stills the tempest in our hearts  
And bids the storm to cease.

God knows best. Why should we  
Attempt to choose our way,  
When we know He leads us on  
Unto the perfect day?

God knows best. Increase our faith,  
Help us, dear Lord, to come;  
And bowing humbly at Thy feet  
To say: "Thy will be done."

And when at last life's troubles o'er  
We reach the land of rest,  
In Heaven's clear light we shall see  
And own that God knows best.  
—Mrs. H. H. Booker, in Chicago Standard.

## BUSINESS AND RELIGION.

## Is It Possible to Conduct Business Successfully on Strictly Christian Principles.

The above question recently came up in a Sunday-school class of young men in one of our larger city churches, and was answered by a number in the negative, showing this dangerous opinion to have considerable currency. To obtain the sentiment of the business world on the subject, the Chicago Advance addressed the question to a number of leading business men.

Among those addressed was ex-Postmaster-General Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, who said: "I have never seen dishonesty or deception succeed in business. The gain of a temporary advantage was always counterbalanced, and in the end netted a large percentage of loss. I took the stand when a boy that it was not necessary to lie to sell goods. It is a slander on the mercantile profession to assert or argue that it is founded on un-Christian principles and practices."

"In my experience," wrote E. G. Keith, president of the Metropolitan national bank, Chicago, "I can not recall an instance where in the long run strict rules of equity as laid down by Christ Himself would not win success, and I feel sure if you apply such rules, no man will ever regret it, even so far as this world's success is concerned. Of course the better rule, that it is best to do right whatever the results, should be the standard."

"I answer your question," says Elbridge Torrey, of Boston, "with an emphatic Yes. If the Bible is true, it will ever be true that 'Godliness is profitable for the life that now is as well as for the life to come.' Facts for a long term of years in any city will show that while there may be temporary success where there is trickery and fraud, permanent and true success must ever rest on permanent principle, and that is always the principle resting on the Word of God as a foundation."

Albert Shaw, editor of the American Review of Reviews, wrote: "I wish to reply yes, with emphasis and without qualifications. There is such a thing as Christian common sense, and it is not difficult to find it embodied in business men whose careers are successful in the estimation of the business world, and whose consciences at the same time are clear in a sense of upright, manly and generous conduct. The rapid acquisition of wealth as a dominating motive and an end in itself is wrong. But to regard the rapid acquisition of wealth as synonymous with the successful conduct of business, is a false view from any legitimate standpoint, whether of economics, of business ethics or of Christian principle. We live in a country that affords opportunities such as the world has never seen before the development of very large enterpr-

The American people, now numbering some seventy millions, possess very much the highest average purchasing power that any people have ever possessed in the history of the world. Consequently, success in a business enterprise may mean the growth of that enterprise to very large proportions, and the consequent acquisition of very large wealth. The one paramount human possession is character. The existing industrial order affords abundant opportunity both for the development and acquisition of high character, and also for the constant daily exercise of Christian principles. The business world to-day—more than ever before in the history of trade, commerce and industry—recognizes the binding character of the essential principles of Christian ethics; and the business world is full of successful men who endeavor with clean hands and a pure heart, and moreover with eyes wide open and brains cleared of the fogs of self-deception, to act upon the principles of the golden rule in all their business transactions."

"I answered the question so thoroughly on my editorial page," wrote Edward W. Bok, editor of the Ladies' Home Journal, "that I do not think I can do better than to send my comments there printed. To my mind, I can not see how the highest attainable business success can be had apart from Christian ethics."

"It is strange," he comments, "how reluctant young men are to accept, as the most vital truth in life, that the most absolute honesty is the only kind of honesty that succeeds in business. It isn't a question of religion or religious beliefs. Honesty does not depend upon any religious creed or dogma that was ever conceived. It is a question of a young man's own conscience. He knows what is right and what is wrong. And yet, simple as the matter is, it is astonishing how difficult it is of understanding. An honest course in business seems too slow to the young man. 'I can't afford to plod along. I must strike, and strike quickly,' is the sentiment. Ah, yes, my friend, but not dishonestly. No young man can afford to even think of dishonesty. Success on honorable lines may sometimes seem slower in coming, but when it does come it outrivals in permanency all the so-called successes gained by other methods. To look at the methods of others is always a mistake. The successes of to-day are not given to the imitator but to the originator. It makes no difference how other men may succeed—their success is theirs and not yours. You can not

partake of it. Every man is a law unto himself. The most absolute integrity is the one and the only sure foundation of success. Such a success is lasting. Other kind of successes may seem so, but it is all in the seeming and not in the reality. Let a young man swerve from the path of honesty and it will surprise him how quickly every avenue of a lasting success is closed against him. Making money dishonestly is the most difficult thing to accomplish in the world, just as lying is the practice most wearing to the mind. It is the young man of unquestioned integrity, who is selected for the position. No business man ever places his business in the hands of a young man whom he feels he can not absolutely trust. And to be trusted means to be honest. Honesty, and that alone commands confidence. An honest life, well directed, is the only life for a young man to lead. It is the one life that is compatible with the largest and surest business success."